

Name _____

Team _____

Discussion Questions and Notes for
"The Village Blacksmith" by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

NO DICTIONARIES ARE ALLOWED! Use your *context clues*.

1. What *genre* is this piece of writing?
2. When you mention this piece of writing in your own writing, how should you *punctuate* it?
3. What is a *blacksmith* or a *smithy*?
4. What does *sinewy* mean?
5. What does *brawny* mean?
6. Highlight the *metaphor* in the first stanza.
- ~~7. Mark the second stanza with *stressed* and *unstressed marks* along with *meter*.~~
8. What are lines 9-10 saying about the blacksmith's character?
9. What is a *bellow*?
10. What is a *sledge*?
11. Which of the *five senses* does the third stanza concentrate on? List the examples of *sensory details* from this stanza.
12. What is a *sexton*?
13. What does *forge* mean?
14. In line 21, what word is used as a *verb*, what word is used as the *subject*, and what word is used as a *noun*?
15. What does *chaff* mean?

16. What does *threshing* mean?

15. What do lines 25-30 visually look like? Describe by writing your own *metaphor* of the image.

17. Describe the difference it would make if the poet said “a church” instead of “the church.”

18. What can you *infer* has happened to his wife?

19. Why does the poet capitalize *Paradise*?

20. What do lines 35-36 visually look like? Who has hands like this that you know?

21. What does *toiling* mean?

22. What does *repose* mean?

23. Who is the *speaker* of this poem?

24. What is the *author's attitude* toward his subject in the poem?

25. Describe and differentiate the *speaker*, the *author*, and the *subject* of the poem.

26. Describe the shift in *voice* that happens in the last stanza.

27. What does *forge* mean?

28. What lesson is the speaker talking about that he has learned? What *Universal Theme* can you connect this lesson to?

29. On your copy of the poem, mark the *rhyme scheme* of every stanza.

30. What is the *tone* of this poem? Write down at least 8 words that gave you that tone.

31. Give at least two examples of *alliteration* from the poem.

32. *Summarize* the plot of this poem to the extent that it would be summarized on the STAAR test. Remember that a summary has the beginning, climax, and resolution and that a summary focuses on the main character, while leaving out insignificant details.

33. Describe a *personal connection* you can make to this poem.

34. Describe, if any, the *evidence* of the following:

Man vs. Man:

Man vs. Nature:

Man vs. God:

Man vs. Society:

Man vs. Himself:

35. Define *imagery* with your class. How does imagery apply to this poem?

Sight:

Sound:

Taste:

Touch:

Smell:

